

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
REGARDING CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUTER RAIL**

WHEREAS, the Haines City Economic Development Council is committed to encouraging vigorous community dialogue with thorough examination and evaluation of important community issues and priorities which may contribute significantly to enhancing the vitality, quality of life and positive community reputation of the Central Florida region: and

WHEREAS, the Haines City Economic Development Council is aware the Department of Transportation (FDOT) is undertaking the Development and Implementation of Central Florida Commuter Rail running from Deland in Volusia County through Seminole County, and Orange County to Poinciana in Osceola County and to Northeast Polk County / Haines City ; and

WHEREAS, the FDOT has reached agreement with CSX Transportation providing for the acquisition of the CSXT's A-line between milepost A749.7 near Deland and A814.1 near Poinciana, a distance of approximately 61.5 miles for the use of Central Florida Commuter Rail and will hopefully negotiate for the approximately 15.5 miles of additional track into Polk County; and

WHEREAS, Orange, Seminole, Volusia, and Osceola and the City of Orlando (collectively, the "Local Government Partners") have agreed the FDOT will be the agency responsible for the design, permitting, and construction of Central Florida Commuter Rail and will responsible for its operation, management, and maintenance for a period of seven years; and if accepted and negotiated proportionately, Polk County will also agree to the same for the design, permitting, construction, management , operation , and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, FDOT has agreed to convey Central Florida Commuter Rail to the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission (other than the stations, which will be conveyed to the Local Government Partners) after the initial seven years; and that Haines City/Polk County will agree to do likewise; and

WHEREAS, implementation of Central Florida Commuter Rail will greatly benefit all of the citizens of, and visitors to the Central Florida region, and is needed in order to relieve traffic congestion, provide transportation opportunities and provide a relief for I-4 traffic during its reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Central Florida Commuter Rail will become an integral part of Central Florida's balanced transportation system and, with concurrent development of improvements to roadways and bus transit, will greatly enhance the mobility of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, financial commitments for Central Florida Commuter Rail have been made by the Local Government partners and state funding is contained in the Five-Year Work Program of the FDOT; and will be included in FDOT District 1 budget for the Polk County portion after approval by the Polk County Transportation Organization and

WHEREAS, Congressman John Mica and Congresswoman Corrine Brown have pledged to secure more than \$300 million in federal funding for the Central Florida Commuter Rail and, if not used for this project, will be lost to rail transit projects elsewhere in the country; and

WHEREAS, it is more critical than ever to provide the traveling public with transportation alternatives as gasoline prices are soaring and new federal air quality standards for ozone put Central Florida at risk of being declared a non-attainment area which could result in sanctions being imposed; and

WHEREAS, Central Florida Commuter Rail will support the effort of Governor Crist's Energy and Climate Change Action Plan, established by Executive Order 07-128, with ambitious goals for reducing statewide green house gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Regional Population Projections identify a 500,000 population base in Northeast Polk County/Haines City and convenient and efficient road access and infrastructure is available and with some participation from Polk County, the addition of 15.5 miles of track to Northeast Polk/Haines City will give access to many more people and will improve ridership and usage,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Haines City Economic Development Council supports the design, construction, and implementation of Central Florida Commuter Rail in the Central Florida area;

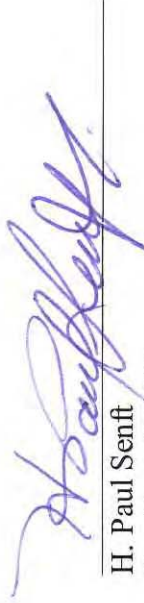
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Legislature is requested in its 2009 Legislative Session to remove the one remaining obstacle to the development and implementation of the Commuter Rail by approving fair and reasonable insurance provisions for the Central Florida Commuter Rail as recommended by FDOT and consistent with the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement.

APROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Haines City Economic Development Council this 10th day of December, 2008.

Signed this 10th day of December, 2008.



Kathy Prince
2008 Elect Chairman of the Board
Haines City Economic Development Council



H. Paul Senft
President & CEO
Haines City Economic Development Council